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For Immediate Release

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Governor Minner Recognizes Manufacturing Company**

*Atlantis Industries Earns Globally Recognized Certification*

**Dover, DE (May 8, 2007)** – Governor Ruth Ann Minner recognized Atlantis Industries, Inc. during a ceremony today at the company's manufacturing facility in Milton, Del. The company's quality system has been ISO 9001 certified since 1997 and recently Atlantis became the first woman-owned manufacturer in Delaware to upgrade its quality system to the ISO/TS 16949:2002 standard.

Atlantis Industries is a leading manufacturer for hundreds of plastic injection molded products for the automotive, medical and plumbing industries, and the military. To earn its certificate, Atlantis passed rigorous tests administered by a third party auditor to ensure its management system provided for continual improvement, emphasized defect prevention and reduced variation and waste. Thirty-three Atlantis Industries employees and managers received special training as part of the certification process.

"My administration works hand-in-hand with our businesses to ensure first-rate training is available and affordable whether it's for a company with a staff of one or 1,000," said Governor Ruth Ann Minner. "A great example of this partnership is right here at Atlantis. Ken and Carole and Billie Jean are committed to ensuring the employees of Atlantis can compete with anyone in the world. They had the foresight to initiate employee training programs that first brought the company to ISO 9000 standards and now to the higher-level ISO standards demanded of all automotive suppliers. Both times, we have been there to help."

The Delaware Economic Development Office provided \$90,917 in support through Workforce Development blue-collar training grants since 2005. The Blue Collar Training Fund is used to help Delaware businesses with workforce training costs due to start-up, expansion or retention.

"All of us at the Delaware Economic Development Office were proud to support this effort through our Workforce Development Center, said Director Judy McKinney-Cherry. "Supporting the training needs of our state's businesses remains one of our highest priorities."

During fiscal year 2006, 83 custom-training contracts totaling nearly \$5 million were managed by DEDO's Workforce Development Center. More than 2,300 employees graduated from training programs supported by the Center during the year.

Additionally, the Delaware Economic Development Office partners with organizations throughout the state to provide support services for Delaware manufacturers. Since fiscal year 2001, DEDO has provided \$2,454,800 to the Delaware Manufacturing Extension Partnership, which facilitated the ISO/TS 16949 training to Atlantis.

"Atlantis is very proud to be registered to ISO/TS 16949," said Atlantis CEO Carole Orr. "With DEDO's resources and DEMEP's training we were able to obtain the help needed in achieving this demanding quality standard."

Photos from the event are available at <http://dedo.delaware.gov/Atlantis.zip>.

For more information about the Workforce Development Center and services, businesses may contact Rudy Marshall, Director of Centers of Excellence, at (302) 672-6812.

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